

Claims

1. A process for machine editing of a machine-readable document, the document including text translated from a first natural language into a second natural language, and the process comprising the steps of:
 - providing an editing knowledge base;
 - providing a machine-editing software object, coupled to the editing knowledge base, for machine-editing a document;
 - receiving a document in a machine-readable, pre-machine edit state;
 - machine-editing the received document using the machine-editing software object so as to produce a post-machine edit state of the document;
 - manually editing the post-machine edit state of the document, including making a change to the post-machine edit state of the document;
 - recording the changes to the post-machine edit states of multiple documents;
 - repeating said receiving, machine-editing, manually editing and recording steps over multiple documents;
 - analyzing the recorded changes over said multiple documents so as to detect a pattern of such changes; and
 - refining the editing knowledge base responsive to the detected pattern so as to improve the quality of subsequent machine editing that uses the knowledge base to automatically edit a document.
2. A process according to claim 1 wherein the first language is the same as the second language, and thus the process is used to improve the quality of an original document.
3. A process according to claim 1 wherein said refining the editing knowledge base includes modifying an existing editing rule.
4. A process according to claim 1 wherein said refining the editing knowledge base includes modifying metadata associated with an existing rule.

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5. A process according to claim 1 wherein said refining the editing knowledge base includes forming a new editing rule that implements the detected pattern of editing changes and adding the new editing rule to the editing knowledge base.

6. A process for building a dynamic editing knowledge base to support machine editing comprising:

providing an initial set of editing rules;

applying the initial set of editing rules to a series of documents to form machine-edited documents;

checking the machine-edited documents so as to detect any erroneous or inappropriate application of the initial set of editing rules; and

updating the initial set of editing rules in response any such detected errors, thereby improving upon the initial set of editing rules over time.

7. A process according to claim 6 wherein the initial set of editing rules are associated with a selected company.

8. A process according to claim 7 wherein the initial set of editing rules are associated with a particular department within the selected company.

9. A process according to claim 8 wherein the initial set of editing rules are associated with a particular type of document produced by the said department within the selected company.

10. A process according to claim 7 wherein the initial set of editing rules are associated with an individual author within the selected company.

11. An editing rule database comprising a plurality of records, each record comprising:

a first tag identifying a document source as to which the corresponding rule is applicable;

a second tag identifying or defining the editing rule itself; and

a third tag storing experience data with respect to the corresponding rule, to be used in assessing utility of the rule.

12. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the first tag identifies an industry as the document source for applying the corresponding rule to edit documents created in the context of the identified industry.

13. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the first tag identifies a company as the document source for applying the corresponding rule to edit documents created in the context of the identified company.

14. An editing database according to claim 13 wherein the first tag identifies a specific department within an identified company as the document source for applying the corresponding rule to edit documents created in the specified department.

15. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the first tag identifies an individual author as the document source for applying the corresponding rule to edit documents created by the identified author.

16. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the experience data indicates a number of times the corresponding rule has been applied.

17. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the experience data indicates a number of times the corresponding rule has been invoked to edit a document correctly.

18. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the experience data indicates a number of times the corresponding rule has been invoked to edit a document incorrectly.

19. An editing database according to claim 11 wherein the editing rule includes a rule detection object for detecting a possible violation of the rule in a document; and a rule correction object for applying the rule to correct a detected violation.